

LAMBDA VALLEY

Februrary 1987

MONTHLY

volume XVIII (18) Number 6

AIDS: More Than Hope

by ALEX MARSHALL

Two years ago, no, even a year ago I couldn't have written this article. The many times that I've had to write about AIDS I felt I might only be another misinformed, disinformed, or uninformed lay commentator, adding to the depression of those who had the disease and those who love them. Time and again I read the statistics that wrote off real people as only numbers, dead, people I knew. Now there is not a glimmer, but a ray of hope. . . maybe even rays. When the virus was first isolated, let's call it HIV, the press immediately jumped to the question of a vaccine. The thoughtful few realized that a vaccine does nothing for those who have the disease.

Back in the '60's, Dr. Jerome Herowitz developed azidothymidine (AZT) as a possible treatment for cancer. It did not prove effective, but now Dr. Samuel Broder, Associate Director of the Clinical Oncology Program at the National Institute for Cancer, has found that AZT has, in clinical tests, been proven to help in the restoration of the immune system and certainly might just prove to be a chemoprophylaxis for AIDS. A chemo. . . what? Let's begin by understanding that many times science has stumbled on things that work, but they don't know why. Aspirin is a good example. They have also learned to distinguish viruses from parasites and even different types of viruses. A virus cannot always be cured nor a parasite killed; but sometimes their growth can be arrested and controlled. Malaria, a disease caused by a parasite, can be controlled. Leprosy, a viral infection, is controllable but not curable. As with syphilis, people assume that the disease is cured, but while

they no longer suffer from its effects nor transmit it, their blood will always test positive for it. A chemoprophylaxis is a substance capable of arresting or controlling the malady so that the infected person can lead a normal life. It may also prevent the disease from developing in an uninfected person. Unfortunately, AIDS is a retrovirus; it combines with DNA. Thus a baby born to a mother who has the disease, will be born with it.

In addition to azidothymidine (AZT), Dr. Broder's group is working with ribavirin, foscarnate and dideoxydicetidine. Dideoxydicetidine has received good preliminary reports from Dr. Robert Gallo of the N.C.I and, incidentally, was developed along with AZT. It could well be that different AIDS patients suffering from different opportunistic infections may respond better to one of these other drugs. From all I have been able to gather from the multitude of theories about the origins and nature of AIDS, it would seem that there is not *one* cause, but more likely several conditions which allow the disease to develop. That would explain why someone who has been exposed to HIV does not develop AIDS. One of the viruses that seems to set the stage for AIDS is Hepatitis B. If that were true, then some light would be shed on the predominance of AIDS in the gay community, since Hepatitis B is prevalent among us. Again, I am afraid of being misleading. Keep in mind that all of this is theory. We generally accept that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer, yet many cases of lung cancer appear in people who don't smoke.

continued on page 4

STONEWALL

2830 n. 10 st. allentown, pa. 18101. 215.432.0706

HOURS

Monday-Saturday 9P.M.-2A.M.

With A Sweetheart Or Not,
Come Celebrate
Valentines Day With Us.

**'Come Back Summer'
Beach Party
Friday, Feb. 27
No cover 9-10 PM.**

Lambda Center

P.O. Box 1656, Allentown, Pa. 18101

16 February 1987

Greetings,

Enclosed is your February copy of the Lambda Valley Monthly. In the center page is the Calendar of Events for the Center, as usual. There are several corrections and additions that can be noted at this time.

~~1.~~ 1. The lecture on the 19th¹ Ms. Hassan's lecture has been postponed because of a scheduling conflict. In replace of that will be Dr. Rapael Mendez, Executive Director of the New Alliance Party. Dr. Mendez is a trained psychologist and heads a political party that is aimed at uniting segments of society that have not been included in the mainstream parties. He will be speaking on "Gays and our political Future". I hope everyone will make an attempt to be there as Dr. Mendez is on a regional tour and we were lucky to be able to have his schedule include the Lehigh Valley. The lecture is at 8:00 p.m.

2. Please add to the schedule that every Friday is Your Turf. Your Turf is a club for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and accepting people under the age of 25. There is always an interest to have a group for people under 25 and the Center is lucky to have two people willing to coordinate the effort. Shawn and Ethan have put together a project that is sure to draw people and add yet another service to the many now offered at Lambda Center.

3. ASC's Training session on the 7th of March is postponed, and add to the schedule a HOTLINE training session on the 14th of March at 7:30 p.m.

At the last Board of Directors meeting we seated the new Board that was elected at the Annual meeting on the 30th. Reorganization includes, Brian Marks, Vice President; Patt McGee, Secretary. Chairpersons of the standing committees have yet to be selected. Paul Kendall, past president was selected to remain on the Executive Committee and we are fortunate to retain his expertise

I would hope that if anyone has any concerns they would make them known to us through mail, Hotline or any other means. We can only be as effective as our membership allows us to be.!! Yours...

P.S. Because of comments made at the Annual Meeting, we are planning an April membership meeting on 16th with groups from Reading, Phila & Bucks County.

For the LambdaCenter's
Board of Directors



Ed Verba, President

Lehigh Valley Lesbian & Gay Community Center

For Women...

Bright New Beginning

by *DESIREE*

Wee, it's now 1987. A new year. A new set of New Year's resolutions. We all have those things we simply must somehow achieve within the next 364 1/4 days. While you are drawing up your lists, consider the following:

No one will get out of this world alive, and you can't take it with you. So share the wealth and the smiles, and you'll be richer by far.

Good health can't be bought; taking care of yourself is priceless.

Hugs are wonderful: not only are they free, they are also a chance to receive while giving. (Resolve to get at least three daily.)

Try talking less for one day. You'll be amazed at what you learn when you listen.

Success in life is not necessarily judged by your bank account. Be thankful for the small fortunes in your life.

A membership at the Lehigh Valley's Gay/Lesbian Community Center is still available at 1986 prices!

Join in the support of the Lambda Center and come on down for Womyn's Night. The activities

begin at 7:30 pm every first and third Monday of the month. The new management is seeking your ideas and suggestions for new topics and events — let's hear from you.

I myself am just beginning to take down my holiday decorations. I'll use any excuse to have friends get together to talk. Sometimes you find yourself without someone there to talk to or perhaps feeling that no one will understand. The Lambda Center offers a 24-hour hotline service with trained individuals available to listen to you and for referral. You won't get all your problems solved, but you'll find a willing ear. The hotline can be reached at 433-5444.

The new year brings a new schedule of events for Lesbians Unlimited of the Lehigh Valley. Resolve right now not to miss out on the fun and get your name on the mailing list. L.U.L.V. can be reached at P.O. Box 665 Trexlertown, PA 18087.

The new year has just begun, holding promise of wonderful new things to accomplish and fabulous new friends to meet. Start right now by joining the Lambda Center and discover the energy of women together at the Womyn's Night! ☐

by *GREG NEW HOLLAND*

Alone

Alone: without you
just wondering what to do;
to live or die,
to laugh or cry.

Alone: no warmth by my side
feeling like I should hide;
in a shell,
in a prison cell.

Alone: just the feeling alone
waiting for you to call on the phone;
to say hello,
to make my feelings grow.

Alone: no warming eyes
the feeling at the end of good-byes,
the feeling at the end of good-byes. ☐

Another thing which further complicates the treatment of AIDS is that its attack on the immune system allows other diseases to develop. Dr. Broder points out that in some cases of Kaposi or Lymphoma, common in AIDS patients, the disease will take on a life of its own. Thus the doctor must treat two or more diseases at once. That could mean that the prescribed medications could work at cross purposes or that their interaction might be harmful to the patient.

In examining what Dr. Broder has said about AZT and AIDS, it seemed to me that he was suggesting that the patient might have to continue taking the medication in order to continue to suppress the virus. That does not sound too bad to me. After all, people with high blood pressure have to take medication forever just as do some diabetics. One patient on AZT since April in the government testing program has done very well. Gary Starliper, from San Francisco, had come down with pneumocystis carini pneumonia when he was diagnosed as having AIDS. Starliper told the *Advocate* that the only side effects he noticed were "flu-like symptoms" and he was "mildly anemic after he started to take AZT, but these ill effects lasted only a few weeks." From then on, he started to feel well and gained weight. He will stay on the drug. Other good news is that Burroughs-Wellcome, the manufacturer of AZT, can produce whatever amount of AZT is needed. AZT is certainly not the end of the AIDS crisis, but at least it offers hope to those who see themselves under the shadow of death.

Since I first prepared this article, I have stumbled on two other developments of great importance to the AIDS problem. Naturally, the production of a vaccine for the AIDS virus has been perhaps the most puzzling problem facing AIDS researchers. Scientists writing in the December 12th issue of the journal *Science* report that a segment of gp120 protein, which coats the AIDS virus, might be a better vaccine candidate than the whole protein. Both induce antibodies in the blood. This new research has been conducted by Dr. Scott Putney and colleagues of the Repligen Corp., a biotechnology firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The segment, as I understand it, stimulates high levels of antibodies that neutralize the virus in test animals. Its superiority over the whole protein is that it does not bind with the white blood cells as the whole protein does. Cell binding may mask other defense mechanisms which could fight off the virus.

Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute, a co-discoverer of the AIDS virus, is enthusiastic about the latest results and has begun testing the experimental vaccine in chimpanzees. One of the most difficult problems in creating a vaccine for AIDS is that the virus mutates rapidly, and there are many varieties of it. If the segment of the protein gp120 is stable and is the part which produces the antibodies, then it alone can be reproduced to make a vaccine effective against all the varieties. However, if the fragment proves to be variable, then researchers would have the even more complicated task of coming up with a combination vaccine to handle all the varieties.

The second AIDS related discovery was by Dr. Vittorio Manzari of the University of Rome, who has isolated a virus called HTLV-V, the probable cause of Lymphoma. Lymphoma is one of the opportunistic viruses that kills AIDS patients. This discovery underscores the wide variety of benefits to science in general coming from AIDS research. These HTLV viruses are really what are called retro-viruses, and, according to Dr. Manzari, they may be responsible for more deaths than was thought.

Manzari was a student of Dr. Gallo, who discovered HTLV-I and HTLV-II, both cause forms of leukemia, and HTLV-III, the AIDS virus. HTLV-IV is an AIDS-like virus, discovered in Africa, which appears not to cause the disease. the discovery of this new HTLV virus leads to speculation that these retro-viruses may be the cause of many unexplained deaths.

AIDS research is far from over, and both a cure or treatment and a vaccine are not around the corner, but the fast pace that we are seeing in scientific progress certainly would lead to the hope that they are on the horizon.

It used to really annoy me when I would read in the 'breeder' press that AIDS was a "disease of homosexual men, drug addicts, Haitians, etc." They dropped the Haitians, and now they seem to have dropped us. In the November 5, 1986 issue of the *Morning Call*, the Philippine government asked the U.S. for assurance that the men stationed at our naval and air stations there are free of the AIDS virus. It appears that the government has an outbreak of AIDS among the prostitutes who cater to the bases. The article did not carry one mention of homosexuality. □

Editorial

by **BOB SWEENEY**

First we had the Coors Brewing Company with their discrimination against homosexual employees, then the Christian Schmidt Brewing Company with their derogatory campaign, pushing their product on the macho ethic, and now, the biggest and latest slap in the face, I feel, has come from Delta Airlines.

It started, in 1985, when two jets collided at a Dallas airport. The survivors of the victims began a lengthy law suit claiming the airline was negligent. Specifically, the parents of a gay male killed in the crash sued Delta for one million dollars, claiming the airline was responsible.

Throughout the litigation the lawyers representing the airline argued the sum should be lower because a gay man would not have lived as long as a straight man since he probably would have contracted a deadly disease. I never realized that being psychic was a prerequisite for passing the bar examination.

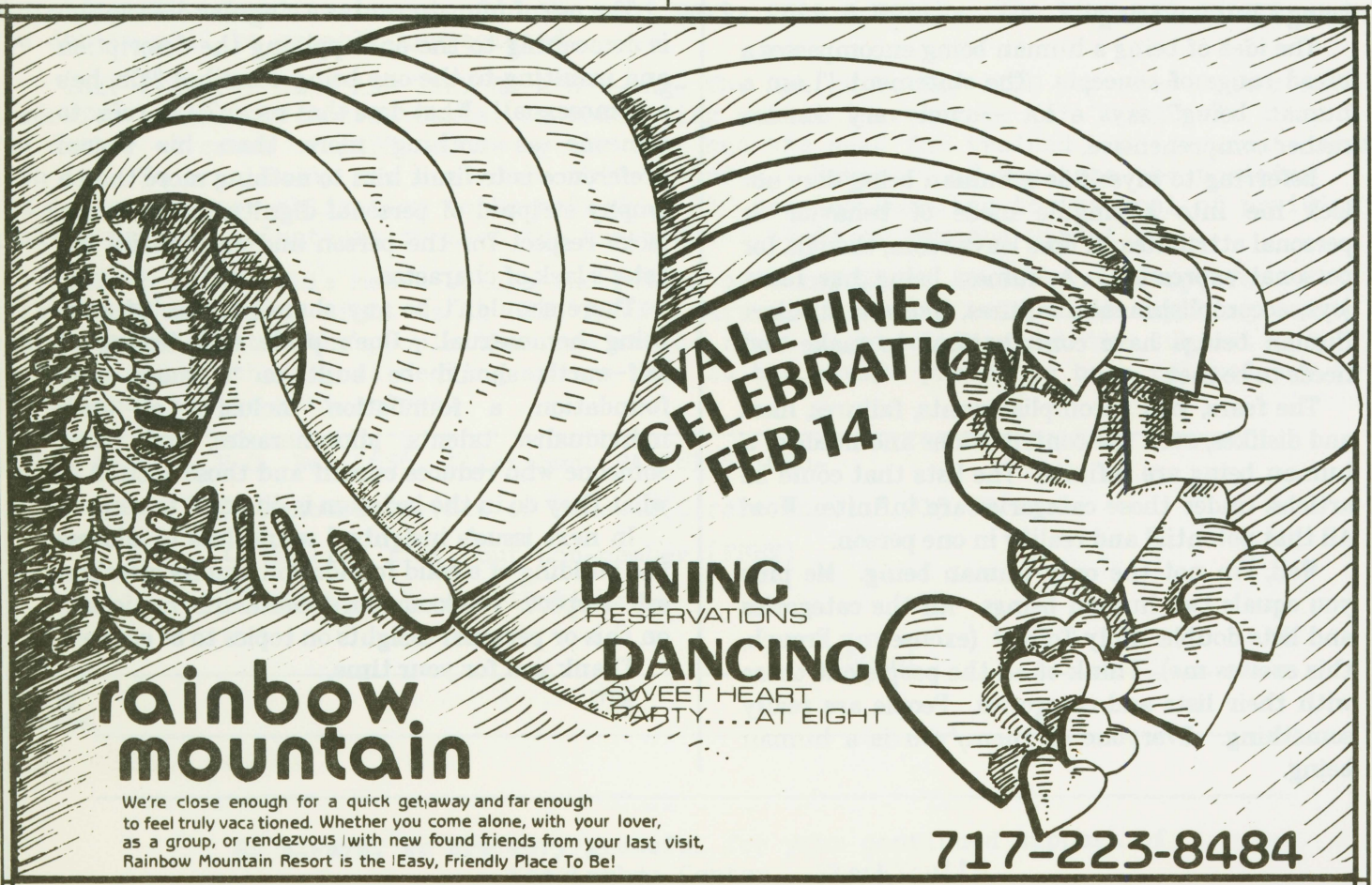
In essence, the lawyers were saying that a gay/lesbian life is worth less than a heterosexual one — which is utter nonsense! A life is a life, no matter what sexual orientation.

Fortunately, the jury sided with the parents.

The ramifications, had the decision gone the other way, would have been far-reaching. Crimes against homosexuals would carry a lesser punishment than those same crimes when committed against heterosexuals. In the long run, it would give more incentive to violence against gays.

I propose to you, the community, to hit these companies where they live: their bank accounts. Make them think twice before issuing these inane comments and policies. We have the power!

When you plan your next vacation or business trip, remember not to fly Delta, where your life is worthless. ☐



**VALENTINES
CELEBRATION
FEB 14**

**DINING
RESERVATIONS
DANCING
SWEET HEART
PARTY...AT EIGHT**

**rainbow
mountain**

We're close enough for a quick getaway and far enough to feel truly vacationed. Whether you come alone, with your lover, as a group, or rendezvous with new found friends from your last visit, Rainbow Mountain Resort is the Easy, Friendly Place To Be!

717-223-8484

Insights...

by RODERIC THEODORE GOODE

Dear Community,

I have recently made a realization that I though worth sharing. Rummaging through my currently less than well organized mind, I found THE IDEA.

THE IDEA was in a terrible state of disuse, abandoned, and deserted. The more I thought about its condition, the more I became concerned. I stared down at THE IDEA for a while, picked it up, handled it and thought it. I was surprised at how unfamiliar it felt.

THE IDEA should have been polished and glistening with use, the way good silver is. It should have had the deep rich glow of a pearl worn repeatedly against the skin.

THE IDEA is *being a human being*. Confused as to why I should be so concerned with the idea of being a human being?

The idea of being a human being encompasses a broad range of concepts. The statement, "I am a human being!" says a lot — not very concise, rather comprehensive.

Referring to myself as a human being does not lock me into a single mode of behavior or personal attributes. It does leave room, though, for personal expression. A human being has fears, joys, accomplishments, failures, like and dislikes. Human beings have contributions to make and needs to be met.

The fears, joys, accomplishments, failures, likes and dislikes, even the contributions and needs of a human being are infinite. The lists that could be articles under those categories are infinite. Wow! All that potential and reality in one person.

Well, I'm not the only human being. Me plus you equals two human beings. All the categories and lists double. Holy Toledo! (excuse my French, this excites me). Think of all the people out there with their lists and categories. People are really something. Everyone of them/you is a human being.

So what's the point? (yes, folks, there is a point). As I alluded earlier, I haven't been thinking of myself in such terms lately, and by the behavior I have witnessed and the attitudes I have perceived, a lot of other people haven't either.

Please correct me if I am wrong (I am sure those offended will have no shortage of words), but a lot of people I have encountered narrow their personal description and self image down to a singular item in those vast lists previously mentioned. People, myself included, use the word *homosexual* as a noun: "I am a homosexual!" That doesn't say a whole lot nor is it very comprehensive. Such a statement, taken as a point of view, limits personal description to sexual orientation only. It lacks scope and potential.

The use of *homosexual* as a singular description is demeaning to the one applying the description and insulting to the one being described ("Oh, he's a homosexual." What does that mean?). To refer to someone as nothing more than his sexual preference is to limit him to nothing more than a trophy stripped of personal dignity. Such action lacks respect for the person and exemplifies the actor's lack of character.

There shouldn't be any shame connected with being homosexual. One's pride and feeling of self-worth should be built on a more solid foundation, a foundation inclusive of one's individualist talents, idiosyncrasies, and flaws. Someone who reduces oneself and those around to what they do in the bedroom is difficult to respect.

In next issue's insights, I would like to address the building of a solid foundation and its effect on self-respect. I welcome any comments/criticisms on this or personal insights on topics to be covered.

Thank you for your time,

RTG

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RTG

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LAMBDA CENTER - On January 23rd the Lambda Center membership elected to its Board eight new members. This eight, the two re-elected members and the rest of the Board NOW sets a quick pace to follow. The "calendar of events" is the most broad based and diverse group of events in the three year history of the Lambda Center. Truly there is a place for EVERYONE at LAMBDA. it's up to us to take that place...

PARTIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS: The first of these falls on the 13th of Feb. when we hold our 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Party and Raffle. Tickets for the raffle went on sale at the Annual meeting and will be sold until the evening of the drawing(2/13 at 10 p.m.) First prize is "Breakfast in Bed for Two", 2nd prize is a dinner certificat at Your Hearts Desire, 3rd, 4th, & 5th prizes are champagne, choclates and roses for you or that special somecne... ### The next Friday (2/20) the Video Night planned showing is My Beautiful Laundarette- Anyone who has seen this gay oriented film can attest to the popularity and will add that if you haven't seen it ...Well what are you waiting for? ###Included in the party schedule are two coffee house nights- Of importance is the one on March 13th is a special St. Patrick's Day Party(It'll be a night when you wont be able to tell the fairies from the leprechauns.)

LECTURE NIGHT: Invited to address the Lehigh Valley is Rashada Lorraine Hassan. Ms. Hassan is executive director of BEBASHI (Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues) BEBASHI is based in Philadelphia. The lecture will begin at 8:00p.m. and is free to the general public. This lecture is the Lambda Center's participation in Allentown's Black History celebration. So mark the 19th on your calendar for this event.

HOUSEKEEPING HINTS NOT BY HELOISE: It is and always has been the Lambda Center's aim to be attractive to the entire lesbian and gay community. It effort to do that we need the volunteer help that we have been always lucky to find. The Center functions with four standing committees; Finance, Center Development and Communications, Services, and Program. Each of these committees is vital to the life and existance of Lambda. It is in that knowledge that we request that you take the time to consider being more active in its operation. The committees meet, for the most part, once a month. The time and effort you donate will be greatly appreciated.

THEY NEED OUR HELP AND THEY'RE A*S*C-ing- The Lehigh Valley AIDS Services Center(ASC), a service project of Lambda Center is conducting a training program for "Buddies". The number of cases of AIDS mounts by the week and the need for trained buddies mounts along with it. To be a Buddy you must have this training. However, if you take the training you are under know obligation to be a Buddy. ASC remains committed to its goal of prviding quality trained volunteers to meet the non-medical needs of persons with AIDS.

CAN WE TALK?- This month brings the return of Salon Night Discussion Group; To kick it off the first night is an OPEN FORUM. This means we can talk about anything we want to talk about. The people that are at the first night will select the subject to be discussed at the second meeting and so on. It has always proven to be a relaxed way to share ideas and to vent gripes.

LAMBDA CENTER- P.O. Box 1656, Allentown, PA 18105-1656-

- ☐ Memberships(New or renewal(Circle one)) @ \$15.00 each
- ☐ Mailing list, but non-member (FREE)
- ☐ Additional contributions

Name _____ Phone(____) _____

Address _____

As always, we are very grateful for your continued support of
the Lambda Center...ThankYou!!!

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 1656
ALLENTOWN, PA 18105-1656

STREET ADDRESS:
742 HAMILTON MALL
ALLENTOWN, PA
(SECOND FLOOR)

OFFICE PHONE: 433-7377
HOTLINE 433-5444
AIDS SERVICES 433-5444

OFFICE HOURS:
MON., WED., & FRI.
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
MARCH						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

ONGOING "GOING ONS"

Sundays (2/8, 15, 22; 3/1, 8)	Metropolitan Community Church of the L.V.	7:30 p.m.
Mondays (2/9, 16, 23; 3/2, 9)	Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.)	Noon-1:00
24 hours a day, 7 days a week	HOTLINE 433-5444	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 2/10	Board of Directors (Note the time change, due to election of new officers)	7:00 p.m.
Thursday 2/12	Center Dev. and Communications Committee	7:30 p.m.
Friday 2/13	***VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY AND RAFFLE***	8:00 p.m.
Monday 2/16	Womyn's Night	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 2/17	Finance and Accounting Committee	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 2/18	Services Committee	7:30 p.m.
Thursday 2/19	***Lecture Night: "AIDS in the minority community" Invited Guest: Rashada Lorraine Hassan	8:00 p.m.
Friday 2/20	Video Night: "My Beautiful Laundrette"	8:00 p.m.
Monday 2/23	Salon Night Discussion Group: Topic- OPEN FORUM	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 2/24	Program Committee	7:30 p.m.
Friday 2/27	Coffee House	8-Midnight
Monday 3/2	Womyn's Night	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 3/3	Executive Committee	T.B.A.
Saturday 3/7	ASC's Buddy Training Session and Workshop	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday 3/10	Board of Directors	7:30 p.m.
Friday 3/13	Coffee House (Special St. Patrick's Party)	8-Midnight

LOOKING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

JUNE 28TH - JULY 12TH LEHIGH VALLEY'S OWN GAY/LESBIAN PRIDE CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 11TH "FOR LOVE, FOR LIFE, WE WONT TURN BACK" MARCH ON WASHINGTON D.C.

NOVEMBER 20TH FIFTH ANNUAL LAMBDA CENTER FUNDRAISING AWARDS DINNER

Religion

Metropolitan Community Church
861-7646

Dignity
(Catholic Gays)
P.O. Box 297
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Unitarian Church
866-7652

Social (Bars)

Candida
N. 12th St.
Allentown
434-3071

Stonewall
28-30 N. 10th St.
Allentown
432-0706

Silhouette Lounge
524 West Beriwck St.
Easton
250-0803

13th St Pub
130 S. 13th St.
Easton
252-9213

Glass Door
221 N. 5th St.
Reading
372-4260

Nostalgia
1101 N. 9th St.
Reading
372-5557

Red Star Saloon
11 S. 10th St.
Reading
375-4116

Scarab
724 Franklin St.
Reading
375-7878

The Baron
Rt. 202
New Hope
862-9431

New Prelude
Rt. 202
New Hope
862-2081

The Raven
Rt 202
New Hope
862-2081

The Blue Bugle
724 Main St.
Stroudsburg
717-424-5999

Rainbow Mt. Resort
RD5 Box 788
East Stroudsburg
717-223-8484

The Bar
307 N. River St.
Wilkes-Barre
717-829-4444

Jimmy the Greek
223 Lackawanna Ave.
Scranton
717-961-0111

Silhouette
523 Linden St.
Scranton

Social Service

Lambda Center
P.O. Box 1656
742 Hamilton Mall
Allentown, PA 18101
433-7377

Lambda Alive
P.O. Box 4313
Reading, PA 19606
374-3000

Le-Hi-Ho
P.O. Box 1633
Allentown, PA 18105

Lesbian Unltd. of the LV
P.O. Box 665
Trexlerstown, PA 18087

Students

Lehigh U. Human Diversity League
c/o Ethan Felson
P.O. Box 603
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, PA 18105

Muhlenberg College Gay Student Union
P.O. Box E-90
Faculty
Muhlenberg College
Allentown, PA 18104

AIDS (Health Concerns)

LV AIDS Service Center
433-5444
24 hrs

Berks Area Health Crisis
375-BAHC
Sun, Wed, Fri 6-9pm

Allentown Health Clinic
437-7760

Bethlehem Health Clinic
865-7087

Alcoholism

A.A. (Rainbow Group)
Church of the Mediator
16th & Turner
Allentown
Tue 8:30 pm

Al-Anon (Lesbian/Gay Support Group)
Lambda Center
742 Hamilton Mall (2nd fl)
Allentown
Fri 7:00 pm

Bookstores (Adult)

Adult Scene
11th & Hamilton
Allentown

Adult Arcade
Rt 309
Coopersburg

Playtime Boutique
2604 Lehigh St.
Allentown

Playtime Boutique
1226 MacArthur
Whitehall

Child Custody

Custody Action for Lesbian Mothers
P.O. Box 281
Narberth, PA 19072

Counseling

Confront Inc.
1130 Walnut St
Allentown
433-0148

Council on
Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Lehigh County only
437-0801

Council on Alcoholism
Bethlehem
867-3986

Jacqueline Marish, B.A.
1322 Center St.
Bethlehem, 18012
346-8380

Crime Victims Council
437-6611

Turning Point
(Spouse Abuse)
437-0222

Valley Wide Halp
435-7111

LV Lesbian/Gay Hotline
(info/referrals)
433-5444

Legal Aid

Civil

Allentown
821-8545

Bethlehem & Easton
253-9305

Criminal

Lehigh County
820-3157

Northampton County
253-4111

Dear Briana

by BRIANA

Who loves ya baby?

A letter signed "Truly Confused" poses a problem not easily addressed, but here goes...

Dear Briana:

As a frequent bar patron, I have noticed the increasing number of people turning to drugs as a solution. This is alarming, and I'm in a dilemma about the issue, some of the people being my friends, and I hate to see what they are doing to themselves. My question is, how do I approach them on the subject without offending them and possibly losing their friendship?

Signed,
Truly Confused

Dear T.C.

I, too, can relate to this problem of increasing drug abuse, particularly cocaine. Drug abuse is on the rise everywhere, not limited to the bar scene. Pharmacists, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, housewives, and the list goes on, have been sniffing the costly white powder at an alarming rate and cost. How does one justify sticking all that money up his nose for a couple of minutes to create a fantasy world?

I'm not being judgmental because I too have tried the expensive powder. Some stark realizations, brought to me by a good friend, are worth sharing. She pointed out the side effects and asked me if I really wanted to waste my money, ruin my health, and, most important, lose my friends. My answer was absolutely no!

I don't know the level of your friendship with these people. Can you be frank and honest and express your feelings about their problem? Will they feel you are prying and that it is none of your business? If you can't be honest with your friends, I suggest you reevaluate your friendships.

I've found that no amount of lecturing can produce results. Only if the person wants to quit, will he/she do so. An addiction is an addiction, whether it be cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. The big difference is drugs are illegal and punishable by law.

If you can be honest with your friends about this issue, I suggest you refer them to the many competent local drug abuse agencies or contact the toll-free cocaine hotline at 1-800-COCAINE for referral and counseling. Good luck!

On a lighter note, Valentine's Day is coming, and if Godiva chocolates aren't in your price range, I'm sure a single long-stemmed rose will do quite nicely. Remember, we are everywhere! ☐

Letters to the Editor

If you have any legitimate gripes about *Lambda Valley Monthly*, regarding articles or representation, Lambda Center, the bars or anything affecting the gay community, write a letter to the editor of *Lambda Valley Monthly*. If you want to get involved and don't know how or where, write a letter!

All letters should be addressed to:

Lambda Valley Monthly

Box 1633

Allentown, PA 18105

First Annual Newsletter Fundraiser Scheduled

A Fundraising Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, February 8 at My Heart's Desire Restaurant, 817 Linden Street, Allentown, the valley's only gay owned and operated restaurant. Dinner will be served promptly at 7 pm.

The menu will include a full course dinner, from soup and appetizers to coffee and dessert. The movie *Parting Glances*, one of the most

popular features at the 1986 New York and Philadelphia Gay Film Festivals, will be shown after dinner.

Tickets will be sold for \$20 per person on a first-come basis due to a limited capacity of forty people. Proceeds will benefit Lambda Valley Monthly, which is distributed free of charge and is the valley's only gay periodical. ☐

Annual Business Meeting Planned by Le-Hi-Ho

by R. HENRY

The calendar has come full circle, and it is time once again for Le-Hi-Ho's annual business meeting, planned this year for 2 pm on Sunday, February 22.

Everyone is invited to attend the session, regardless of their level of involvement with the organization in the past.

The chief item on the agenda will be selection of new officers. There will also be some time reserved for an open discussion of the past year's accomplishments and the coming year's goals.

A social hour with refreshments will follow the business meeting.

Le-Hi-Ho is the Lehigh Valley's oldest gay organization. Founded in 1969 a few months before the so-called Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village in New York City, the group welcomes the participation of both lesbians and gay men.

Watch for details in the Lambda Valley Monthly about its next program, scheduled for 7:30 pm on Thursday, March 19. ☐

Lunch, Brunch & Dinner To...

Christmas???

by DANE MORGAN EDWARDS

This is a Christmas column. We realize that it's February. The wreaths and lights are packed away until next year. The tree, despite the best efforts, dried up and drooped down and finally was hauled ingloriously away, with perhaps bits of garland still flashing a festive defiance among brown bare branches. The beautiful cards that were a colorful headdress about the doorway have long since been thrown away — except for that very special one from that very special ONE, but even it has been relegated to a permanent and secret place. We turn up our collars and look wistfully at the sky, hoping snow is spent and spring is stirring just around the corner...

But we wanted a Christmas column. But, we wondered, what kind of column could it be? The Christmas season is the party season and parties always mean great food. There would be a great many parties. We would have neither the time nor the inclination to seek out a restaurant whose goodies could then be turned into the stuff reviews are made of. Forego our Christmas column? Maybe so.

On Christmas Day we went to a party. It had been described to us as a "traditional English Christmas house party." We try anything once.

Our host greeted us at the door and led us into the Wassail bowl. This is the custom described in the old carol, the spiced ale with which each new guest toasts his host with the season's compliments. We raised our glass and saluted him. But this was not spiced ale! This, we were told, was Regency Punch. That potent concoction is made of champagne, brandy, rum, ginger ale, cranberry juice, lemons, sugar and God knows what else! It surely subdues the vigors of those cold English winters considerably.

When we made our way into the dining room, we saw, for the first time in our young life, what a cooked goose really looks like. The sheer size of the brown and naked brute amazed us. We carefully observed the carving and serving and concluded that such a vast expanse of flesh could not possibly be devoured in only one Christmas season. We wondered how many ways can one serve up left over goose.

Later the Christmas caroling came to an abrupt halt when no one in the entire house could remember what our true gave us on the tenth day of Christmas. Various suggestions were forwarded, but all were rejected. A potentially disastrous situation was retrieved when one of the guests called his mother long distance in Miami. That gracious and cooperative woman, a former teacher of music, informed us that on that particular day, we received ten lords a-leaping. The party went roaring on.

We used a pause in the singing to compliment one of the revelers on his gorgeous tan. He told us it was of Mexican origin. We playfully suggested that we be allowed a glance at his tan lines, and he just as playfully informed us that there weren't any. He tanned exclusively on the nude beach. We led him to the Wassail bowl for another dip and were entirely serious when we asked him to let us know if he planned to vacation on the particular beach again next year.

It was, regrettably, getting late, and there were other parties to attend, so we took our leave. We remember thinking as we drove away from the house, what are we going to write about in that Christmas column?

□

LAMBDA Center

Lambda Center Kicks Off a New Year

by HUNTLEY HAVERSTOCK

It is said that the ancient Romans called the first month of the year January after their two-headed god Janus, who looked both back to the old and ahead to the new. Like Janus, your Lambda Center board of directors started its first meeting of 1987 with a look back at a year of solid achievement and looked optimistically ahead to the future.

In 1986 the Lambda Center and its associated committees — the AIDS Services Center, the Hotline and the various programs — were able to keep going against the sometimes cold winds of financial adversity. But after a rough year, the Finance Committee was able to report an overall bank account balance of \$8,386.18. This is after the repayment of all outstanding loans and other fiscal obligations were taken care of. At least in part, the center has been fortunate in the generosity of several religious groups which have helped out in the form of much needed grants.

This temporary wealth does not mean the Center can afford to rest on its behind, however. Events have a way of catching up with bank accounts, as we all know. The major expense coming up in the new year will be the hiring of a full-time director.

At this point the director search is continuing. In response to our ad, letters have been sent to the qualified applicants. These letters outline what the board expects the duties of a director to be. It is hoped that a director will have been chosen by the end of February.

Another uncertainty has arrived with the new year: the building in which the Center is located has again been sold. At this point, no one knows for sure what changes, if any, are in store for the Center, but several board members agreed to meet with the new owners to learn what plans they may have in mind for the building.

The AIDS Services Center reported that it is now serving 35 people through its buddy system. Sadly, they also reported that since December 15, six

persons with AIDS have died. In one case, the Services Center paid for the funeral of a man who died.

Much of the meeting was taken up with plans for the annual membership meeting, scheduled for January 23. Since it will all be history by the time you read this, going into detail would be repetitious.

Perhaps one of the more unusual items discussed was the plight of gay Soviet dissident Gennady Trifonov, a poet and writer who has spent many years in Soviet jails. As an openly gay man in a society that has even less tolerance than America in the 1980s, he has suffered much at the hands of the Soviet secret police.

Currently out of prison, Trifonov has been told that he may leave the Soviet Union — but only if he leaves his ill and aged mother behind.

It has been suggested by a member of the Center, Alex Marshall, that as a gesture of solidarity with Trifonov, the board grant him an honorary membership in the Lambda Center. Marshall has also suggested that board members send letters to the Soviet embassy urging the release of Trifonov along with that of his mother. The board decided to pass the issue on for a decision by the full membership at the January 23 meeting.

Social events for 1987 are already being planned. The Women's Group plans to reorganize its salon nights, featuring feminist books and authors. The board is also considering the establishment of an informal coffee house at the center.

In one last moment of looking back, the board said goodbye to Kate Kraft, its vice president. Kate has done a masterful job during the past three years, giving her energies, time, and talents that went far beyond the call of duty. Now her return to college and move to Philadelphia will take her out of the area but not out of our thoughts. Best of luck in the future, Kate. ☐

Lifestyles...

V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N

by GREG NEW HOLLAND

Where to go? What to do? Where does a gay/lesbian, a gay/lesbian couple or a group of gay/lesbians go for a good vacation in a comfortable atmosphere, where there is culture, museums, 'artsy' shops, restaurants with character, sociable people and an outstanding nightlife? Where to go? Key West is where!

After a small poll in the local bars, it seemed Key West is the favorite predominantly gay vacation spot. The climate offers year-round warmth and sunshine with beautiful flowers and palm trees in abundance, and cottages with white picket fences.

A day, In Key West, starts with a rented bike or scooter ride to a seaside restaurant for croissant and espresso. After breakfast, continue your ride to ever-famous Duval Street, with specialty shops offering everything imaginable. Stop in between purchases for a hot dog on a stick, barbecued ribs, or strawberries dipped in chocolate.

When lunch time rolls around, treat yourself to an avocado-mushroom-tomato-sprout sandwich with a tall papaya drink to enjoy while lazily sitting in a wooden swing on a front porch. Venture to the island's museum, where paintings and jewelry conjure up a dream.

Returning to your rented condo, lounging by the pool with a banana daiquiri, soaking up the sun's rays...what better way to spend an afternoon?

Don't miss the nightly Sunset Carnival. It's a wonder the island doesn't sink, with hundred of people flocking to the dock to watch the sunset. They gather to enjoy comedy, magic, musicians, along with hundreds of peddlers selling their wares. There is even a human statue to entertain. If you want an unobstructed glimpse of the sunset, you better get a spot early or have shoulders to sit on, for it's absolutely spectacular, and everyone knows it.

It's dinner time! Where should I start? There are an abundance of quaint restaurants which boast the ultimate dining experience. Nobody does it better! It's a romantic's dream come true.

Finally, Key West nightlife! It's awesome. The bars range from quiet piano bars submerged in plant life to hard core discos that you can lose yourself in. One bar includes a game room, a movie room, of the porn variety, private VIP lounge, disco, and the ever-popular outdoor cafe, all under one roof! On special occasions, Duval Street is completely closed, and the street fills with people partying to end all parties.

Yes, Key West has it all and more. It's predominantly gay, which complements all aspects of a vacation that you could possibly desire. Where to go? What to do? Experience Key West. I guarantee you'll love it! ☐

LAMBDA VALLEY MONTHLY

Box 1633

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I'm Not One to Gossip, But...

by MYRNA LOUISE

Well, here we are again! Did everyone have a wonderful holiday season? I don't know about yours, but mine was truly exhausting. I'm sure many of you went through the same thing I did.

Let's be honest. I don't care what day it is, after ten hours of family, you've had it! To this day, I still don't know half the names of my cousins. Yeah, well, somehow I think they'll survive. I just hope I do.

I've got lots of goodies in store for you this issue, so what do you say we start?

I'm not one to gossip, but...

Rumor has it that a certain bar owner (no names pleas, but she drives a 'Z') made an extreme social error at a fundraising dinner, while her sister laughed hysterically! Ladies, please! Dina, love, next time wear the jock strap like everyone told you! Steph, shame on you! Wait until I tell Dawn! Oh, the shame, Dina! Is it true that the '700' club is Dina and Kitty?

Let's have a hand for Claudia. Myrna herself was at a "certain club" in town and had the opportunity to dance with Ms. Claudia. Yes, folks, I was impressed. Not only can the girl dance, but the @,%, was the only one to beat me at the limbo, and I was a customer! God love her!

I'm not one to gossip, but...

This dirt I love! This is a story about our own beloved Michael. That's right, Candida's dedicated pianist. Dear Michael picked up a lonely soul who need a soft hand and a hard @%&@!. Excuse me, I lost my train of thought! Anyway, to make a long story short, our pianist was missing more than his 88 keys before the night was over! Michael, dear, tut, tut, after the VCRs, one would think you'd learn your lesson. Oh, well, it took Chuck a long time too! Oh! How rude!

And speaking of rude, I'm not one to gossip, but...

Circulating around the "social circuit" is that if two certain bartenders from the "local disco" would behave for two months, we could all expect a postcard from down under (no, I don't mean Riverbend!). Good luck, kids! What do they have to lose? What do they have left? I'm sure I'll hear about that one!

If any of you were at the BMW Club last Friday, you caught Gail's act. Myrna was with her, kind of,

what an experience. I love you dearly, hon, but if your "frontals" would have bounced anymore, well, kiss the light show good-bye!

How about that Pat in her new black t-shirt? I just love when she goes formal, don't you?

I've seen Georgette wearing black lately too. What's the matter, dear, have you gone through all the muggers in town already? You work faster than I do, love!

Did anyone else see Rosemary driving around lately? It looked like she had a new leather interior. I thought she just had a face lift!

I don't know if anyone else noticed, but in a certain slide show at an Allentown bar, didn't our own beloved Nan look like Martina Navratilova? Nan, I never knew you were so talented with balls. You'll never cease to amaze me!

Alyse, dear, driving with you is like driving with Myrna! If any of you out there has the opportunity to travel with her...go! She's the closest thing to a N.Y. cabbie around. Make sure you relive yourself first...I didn't think Myrna has to explain!

Now, kids, Myrna is going to share with you some dirt about herself. You see I started dating this guy, and can you believe this *nebish* had the gall to say that either Myrna went or he was going? Can you stand it? Give Myrna an ultimatum? Driving a Gremlin and trying to give an attitude! Really! In Gary's words, "don't waste my time!" They spend one night with you, and then they want to change you! Oh, God!

Well, Myrna has gone on long enough for one issue. Once again I'd like to thank those that I have written about. I only write about those that I love and respect and those that can take it in good fun, the way it is meant. If any of you darlings have any dirt for Myrna, mail it to: Myrna, c/o Lambda Valley Monthly, P.O. Box 1633, Allentown, PA 18105. Discretion and anonymity assured.

In closing, if you need that quick tax write-off for 1986, don't forget the Lehigh Valley AIDS Services Center throughout the year. The Services Center is a vital part of our local community. After all, AIDS affects us all. It knows no bounds, whether it be race, creed, religion, sex, or sexual persuasion. ☐

Victory Party a Rousing Success

by **BOB SWEENEY**

The Stonewall hosted a Victory Party/AIDS Benefit, Wednesday, November 19th at their bar, raising \$2,700 for AIDS-related activities.

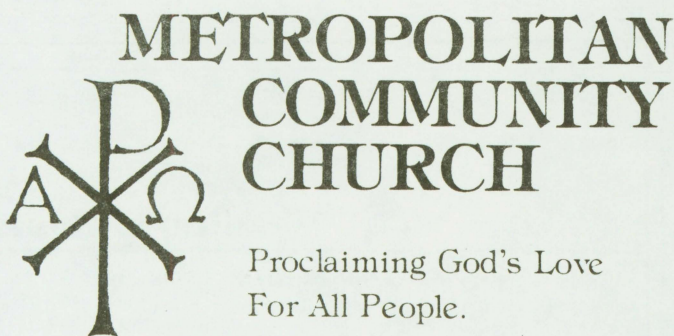
The Victory Party was held to celebrate the Stonewall's victory over Candida at the First Annual Bar Olympics held in August at Rainbow Mountain Resort, which raised \$5,5000 for the AIDS Services Center, a project of the Lambda Center.

At the fundraiser, money was raised a variety of ways: \$1 door charge, raffle tickets, balloon and

carnation sales. Contributions included a gracious matching donation from the host bar and, from one of the Stonewall's bartenders, Mitch Hemphill, all his tips for the evening.

A hearty congratulations to everyone involved.

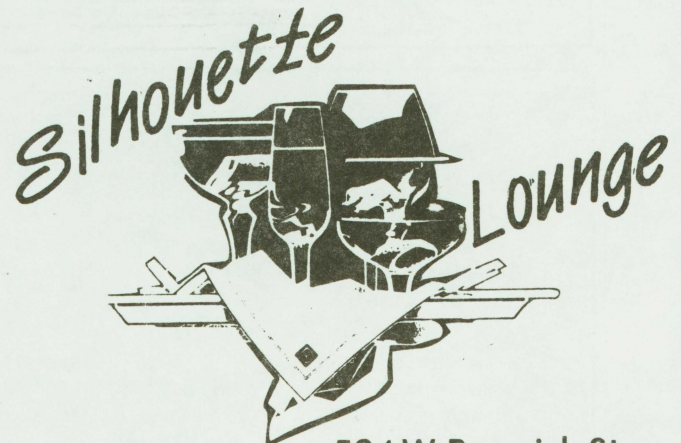
Work is well under way for a spring fundraiser involving Candida's, the Stonewall, the 13th Street Pub, and Silhouette lounge. Stay tuned for more information on bar fundraisers! ☐



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